

Your path to Archaeology

Your skills and the employment market

The skills and qualities you have acquired are not only of value to the Archaeology profession. This combination of numerate and literate skills is highly sought after by many sectors of employment. These skills include:

- Appreciation of the historical, social, cultural and political context of archaeological interpretation.
- The use of diverse sources of evidence e.g., excavated, documentary, representational, observational, artefactual, environmental and scientific material.
- Use of methodologies to quantify, analyse, interpret data.
- Understanding scientific methods used in collecting, analysing and interpreting archaeological data.
- Fieldwork and laboratory techniques.
- Selecting and using appropriate statistical techniques.
- Produce logical arguments supported by evidence.
- Communication skills – oral and written.
- IT, information retrieval and presentation skills.
- Research skills and Teamwork skills.
- Sensitive to different cultures and can deal with new situations.

Source: "Degrees of Skill: Student Employability Profiles" The Higher Education Academy.

Sample Job Advertisements

Field Archaeologist, Oxford. Experience in archaeological fieldwork and excavation at the professional commercial level is essential (min 6 months), relevant archaeological degree is desirable.

Project Assistant, Newport. Expected to demonstrate proficiency in using a range of IT applications, preferably modelling software. Good communication skills essential.

Graphics Assistant, ADS Ltd. AutoCad, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and In Design, Microsoft

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Word, Technical drawing skills, Time management, ability to work with team & under own initiative. Archaeological experience desirable

Possible Career Opportunities

Field Archaeologist (excavation)	Environmental Impact Assessor	Conservation Officer
Archivist	Tourism Officer	Heritage Officer
Archaeological Surveyor	Archaeological Conservator	Finds Researcher
Historical Researcher	Excavation Director	Museum Officer
Teacher	Data Analyst	Lecturer

Note: Further qualifications may be needed for certain positions. This list is a sample of positions available.

Archaeology is a competitive market. To show an interest and understanding of current projects may help you at interviews. Work experience is also a key issue and any fieldwork you have to add to your CV will be a bonus. There are various voluntary and/or short-term, projects worldwide that offer good experience. Some of the websites listed at the end of this leaflet also offer many opportunities.

There are some publications that may help keep you up-to-date. These publications also have many advertisements from companies and consultancies and so can help with your job search.

'Archaeology Ireland'

'British Archaeology' and 'Current Archaeology' UK

'European Journal of Archaeology'

Useful websites UK :

- Council for British Archaeology
- <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/>
- Current Archaeology (magazine) www.archaeology.co.uk
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists www.archaeologists.net
- Archaeological Resource Guide for Europe
- <http://www.europeart.net/links.htm>

Further study opportunities

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training ie.

MA in Landscape Archaeology

HDip Archaeology

HDip Business Studies

HDip Systems Analysis

HDip Software Design & Development

MA / PhD (research)

MA in Journalism

Further Study programmes can be found on the following websites;

www.postgradireland.com which contains useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland, www.prospects.ac.uk is an excellent site for researching opportunities in the UK and <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/> covers the EU.

Deciding on your Career

Choosing a career involves more than just finding out what is open to you. Knowledge about yourself is vital to the process. It is valuable to start by looking at your strengths, weaknesses, interests, abilities and skills in order to relate career options to you.

TU Dublin students and recent graduates can arrange an appointment with one of our staff to assist them in making that decision.

There are resources available on our website for help deciding 'what next?' including Psychometric Tests at: <http://www.dit.ie/media/careers/pdf/Assessment%20centres%20and%20psychometric%20tests.pdf>

Useful websites

We have found that the following websites contain relevant and interesting information on opportunities with a degree in Archaeology.

http://search.nuigalway.ie/search?q=archaeology&spell=1&access=p&output=xml_no_dtd&ie=UTF-8&client=nuig_frontend&site=nuig_courses&proxysylesheet=nuig_frontend
Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland www.iai.ie
Achill Field School www.achill-fieldschool.com/

Irish Museums Association www.irishmuseums.org
Archaeology links portal
www.xs4all.nl/~tbreen/links.html

Intl.Earthworks (recruitment portal)
www.earthworks-jobs.com/archaeology.html

Museums Online

<http://icom.museum/>

New Zealand Archaeological Association

www.nzarchaeology.org

Australian Archaeological Association

www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au

General student/graduate websites

Career Development Centre, degree opportunities:

<https://tudublin.gradireland.com/home.html>

Gradireland www.gradireland.com

Prospects UK Archaeology profile

www.prospects.ac.uk/options_archaeology.htm

Are archaeologists required to have a Safe Pass? Strictly speaking, archaeologists are not construction workers and, as such, are not required by the Construction Regulations to have a Safe Pass. However, given that much of the work they do is in a construction type environment, it is appropriate that the employer assess the work to be undertaken on a site-specific basis. If an objective assessment shows that employees having "safe pass" would help the employer comply with his/her general duties regarding training (in accordance with Section 8 of the 2005 Safety Health & Welfare at Work Act) then the employer should give strong consideration to having workers obtain safe pass. It should be noted that the regulations relate to minimum requirements and a Client, PSCS or a Contractor may require that all personnel entering their construction site have Safe Pass.

- See more at:

http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Your_Industry/Construction/Construction_FAQ's/Safe_Pass/

The Discovery Programme

www.discoveryprogramme.ie/

Certificate in Irish Archaeology

<https://www.itsligo.ie/courses/certificate-irish-archaeology-online/>

